Sugar Development Fund

3640. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sugar Development Fund was created in 1989 along with a levy of a Central Cess of Rs. 140/- per tonne to its credit, if so, what is the credit balance of this Fund this year;

(b) the purposes for which the Fund was created and whether the funds are being used for those purposes; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Sugar Development Fund was formed under the provisions of the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) Act, 1982 promulgated on 20.3.1982, by crediting to the Fund an amount equivalent to the proceeds of the duty of excise levied and collected under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, reduced by the cost of collection as determined by the Central Government after due appropriation made by Parliament by law. The duty of excise levied under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982 was Rs. 5.00 per quintal w.e.f. 20.3.1982 which was enhanced to Rs. 14.00 per quital w.e.f. 29.10.1982 on all sugar produced by any sugar factory in India. The balance in the Fund as on 31.12.2000, net of collections of excise levied under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982 credited to the Fund, disbursals from the Fund and repayment of loans is Rs. 1046.66 crores.

(b) and (c) The Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 provides that the Fund shall be applied for by the Central Government for the following purposes:—

(a) Making loans for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernisation of any sugar factory;

(b) Making loans for the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane in the area in which any sugar factory is situated.

(c) Making grants for the purpose of any research project aimed at development of sugar industry.

(d) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of building up and maintenance of Buffer Stock with a view to stabilising price of sugar.

(e) Defraying any other expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

The Funds are being utilised only for the purposes specified in the SDF Act, 1982. An expenditur of Rs.1903.42 crores has been incurred on the above mentioned Heads since the inception of the SDF and upto 31.12.2000.

Availability of foodgrains under revamped PDS

†3641. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 20 kg. of foodgrains were being provided under the revamped Public Distribution System in tribal areas;

(b) if so, whether 20 kg. of foodgrains are being provided under BPL also;

(c) whether requirement of tribal areas would be met;

(d) if not, whether Government would increase the same and by when;

(e) whether prices of BPL foodgrains have been increased; and

(f) if so, whether BPL consumers would be given relief from this increase and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Under the revamped Public Distribution System (1992-97) 20 kg. of foodgrains were provided to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.